



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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ASMFC Approves Black Sea Bass Addendum VI & Scup Addenda V & VII

Washington, DC – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission today approved three addenda to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The three addenda seek to improve the conservation and management of black sea bass and scup fisheries through the setting of commercial possession limits and triggers for black sea bass, the establishment of state-specific allocations for the commercial scup summer period quota, and the establishment of 2002 recreational fishery specifications for scup.

Addendum VI for Black Sea Bass establishes initial possession limits, triggers and adjusted possession limits for Quarters II, III and IV. Quarter II, which extends from April through June, will start with a possession limit of 1500 pounds/day or 6000 pounds/week and adjust to 150 pounds/day or 1,000 pounds/week. Quarter III, which extends from July through September, will start with a possession limit of 500 pounds/day or 3,000 pounds/week and adjust to 100 pounds/day or 700 pounds/week. Quarter IV, which extends from October through December, will start with a possession limit of 750 pounds/day or 4000 pounds/week and adjust to 100 pounds/day or 700 pounds/week. All adjustments will take place when 60% of the quarterly quota is projected to be taken. Each state will have the flexibility to establish weekly or daily possession limits to meet the specific needs of their fishermen.

Addendum V for the Scup FMP establishes permanent state-shares for the commercial fishery during the summer period (May 1 – October 31). State shares are calculated using the most recent landings data from 1983 – 1992. The state percent allocation will be identical to that in place during the 2001 summer period.

Addendum VII for the Scup FMP establishes the management program for use in the 2002 recreational fishery. States from Massachusetts through New York will develop state-specific management measures based on the calculated effectiveness of 2001 regulations relative to landings from 1998-2000. Under this scenario, some states will need to develop more restrictive regulations, while others will be permitted to maintain or slightly relax their current management programs. These states are also provided the option of separating their recreational fishery by mode upon review and approval by the Technical Committee and Board. In the case of New Jersey, which has very limited recreational landings data, the Board approved a 10-inch minimum size, 50 fish bag limit and a season of July 1 – October 31. Due to the very low landings in more southern states, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina will be permitted to maintain their current regulations.

While summer flounder, scup and black sea bass are managed jointly by the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, these recent actions have been taken by the states for state water management only.

Copies of the Addenda will be available by March 4 and can be obtained by contacting Laura Huggins, Administrative Assistant, at (202)289-6400 or <lhuggins@asmfc.org>, or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. For more information, please contact Michael Lewis, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or <mlewis@asmfc.org>.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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